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**Commission on Narcotic Drugs**
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**Implementation of the international drug control treaties**

**Latvia:** draft resolution**

## Promoting the role of drug analysis laboratories worldwide and reaffirming the importance of the quality of the analysis and results of such laboratories

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 834 (IX) of 14 December 1954, on the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory, and the note by the Secretary-General of 15 October 1954[1] indicating the importance of situating the Laboratory in the same place as the Division of Narcotic Drugs, and noting the contribution of the Laboratory to the efforts of Member States in countering the issues of drugs and crime over the past 60 years,

*Recalling also* its resolution 50/4 of 16 March 2007, in which the Commission recognized the important role of drug analysis laboratories as part of national drug control systems, and the value of laboratory results and data to criminal justice systems, law enforcement and health authorities and policymakers,

*Reaffirming*, in accordance with its resolutions 50/4 and 52/7 of 20 March 2009, that the quality of the analysis and results of drug analysis laboratories has significant implications for the justice system, law enforcement and preventive health care, as well as for the international harmonization and worldwide exchange and coordination of drug information and data,

* E/CN.7/2015/1.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 12, document A/C.3/573.

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*Reaffirming also*, in accordance with its resolutions 50/4 and 52/7, the added value of the international quality assurance support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing means for the continued monitoring of the situation of laboratories throughout the world and in identifying factors affecting laboratory performance and areas where improvements can be made, including how best to target support, thus providing an evidence base for technical assistance projects and for monitoring their effectiveness,

*Recalling* that, in its resolution 52/7, the Commission called upon Member States and subregional, regional and international entities to contribute to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by providing expertise for the development of cooperative networks among laboratories and by exploring innovative ways to ensure the more effective exchange of expertise and information worldwide,

*Recalling also* its resolution 57/9 of 21 March 2014, in which the Commission recognized the continued value to Member States of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme, in particular the early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances, with regard to identifying, monitoring and reporting on a large number of new psychoactive substances,

*Reaffirming*, in accordance with its resolution 54/3 of 25 March 2011, that access to reference samples of controlled substances is an essential quality assurance requirement for achieving the reliability of the analysis and results of drug analysis laboratories,

*Recalling* its resolution 56/5 of 15 March 2013, in which the Commission noted with concern the differences in capacity of drug analysis laboratory services in Member States, which prevented the exchange of drug information and reduced the value of laboratory results to law enforcement authorities, and invited Member States to ensure that relevant samples, in particular samples taken in connection with international investigations and for intelligence purposes, could be submitted to forensic laboratories with the requisite expertise for profiling analyses to establish forensic links,

*Acknowledging* that one of the strategic goals of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is to increase the capacities and improve the performance of drug analysis laboratories to meet internationally accepted standards so that they can provide their clients with reliable data,

*Acknowledging also* that there is still a growing need for laboratories to be supported in their analytical work, services and training of experts,

*Emphasizing* the importance of ensuring the quality and reliability of the results of drug analysis laboratories, and especially emphasizing that the quality and reliability of such results are a question of protecting human rights,

*Emphasizing also* that the continuity of the work of drug analysis laboratories and maintaining and enhancing the effectiveness and capacity of such laboratories are essential in countering new challenges such as the identification and analysis of emerging new psychoactive substances,

*Emphasizing further* that international cooperation and the full utilization of existing networks and projects are of the utmost importance in continuing, maintaining and further strengthening the performance of drug analysis laboratories,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to support Member States in enhancing the analytical work of laboratories and the training of experts;

2. *Requests* Member States to review and enhance national procedures, as appropriate, in order to facilitate access to reference and test samples of internationally controlled substances for scientific purposes;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to evaluate, upon request, the performance of laboratories through its quality assurance programme for drug analysis laboratories and to provide assistance to develop and enhance their services;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to contribute to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in all the aspects set out in the present resolution and to provide expertise for the enhancement of the performance of laboratories and to ensure effective exchange of information worldwide, including through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances;

5. *Invites* Member States to ensure that, where appropriate, samples of the most commonly used drugs (such as heroin, cocaine, cannabis and amphetamines), in particular those relevant to international investigations and for intelligence purposes, can be submitted to forensic laboratories with the requisite expertise in profiling analyses to establish forensic links;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue supporting the analytical work of laboratories by providing reference samples of controlled substances and new psychoactive substances, by identifying best practices and encouraging the use of guidelines, by developing manuals on standard methods including relevant research, by offering training opportunities and by promoting and facilitating the exchange of information, material and data;

7. *Invites* Member States to provide their best available data, including data from national drug analysis laboratories, in order to support the review of the most persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances by the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization;

8. *Invites* the World Health Organization, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to review the most persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances, based on the conclusions of the joint United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and World Health Organization Expert Consultation on New Psychoactive Substances held in Vienna from 9 to 11 December 2014;

9. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the purposes of the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.